



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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BOULDER CANYON LAKE RESERVED
AS GREAT WILD LIFE SANCTUARY

President Hoover, In One of Last Official Acts,
Proclaims 1000 Square Mile Tract a Refuge
For Wild Birds and Animals

The great artificial lake to be created by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River will become a refuge and breeding ground for wild birds and animals under an Executive order signed by President Hoover on March 3. The new reservation will be known as the Boulder Canyon Wild Life Refuge. Superimposed on part of the land and water area withdrawn for the Boulder Canyon project for river regulation, flood control, irrigation, domestic water uses, and power development, the new wild-life refuge will cover a total of about 620,000 acres, approximately 132,000 acres of which will be a vast artificial lake on that part of the Colorado River, in Arizona and Nevada.

Administration of the refuge will be by the Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Biological Survey, subject to use by the Department of the Interior for its primary purposes. Paul G. Rodington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, in a statement issued today (March 7) said that the flooded area will be wholly in the Lower Sonoran Life Zone, with the hot summer and mild winter climate of the mesquite and creosote bush country providing a breeding ground for many interesting birds and mammals of the southwestern desert region, and a winter resort for many northern migratory birds. "Formerly," said Mr. Rodington, "it was a paradise throughout the year for Arizona quail, roadrunners, thrashers, and other

birds. In winter, swans, snow geese, many ducks, some shorebirds, waders, and a host of other smaller migrant birds found a congenial resort in the Virgin and Colorado River valleys, the natural outlet of the Great Basin. When this area becomes a great lake, with curving bays and deep inlets cutting back into side valleys and gulches, it will again be a great attraction for northern waterfowl and provide cover and food for the resident birds that are pushed back from the middle of the valley.

"The refuge will be an oasis in an otherwise arid country on one of the southward bird-migration routes, a way station from Klamath Lake Refuge, Oregon, to the Gulf of California. The Federal Bear River Refuge, on Great Salt Lake, lies 400 miles northeast, the Salton Sea Refuge is 225 miles to the south, and the Fallon Migratory Bird Refuge in Nevada is about 350 miles northwest. The new refuge therefore should prove a valuable resting spot and winter resort for many waterfowl that now seek congenial waters beyond our southern border.

"Beavers, muskrats, and otters will be the main local aquatic mammalian fauna, but the protected area will also provide homes for antelope squirrels, and chipmunks, as well as for little desert foxes, gray foxes, raccoons, and other interesting animals of the region.

"The value of this new refuge in the Southwest," concluded Mr Redington, "is greatly enhanced by its geographic position, and a more favorable place for preserving and enjoying the close presence of aquatic and other wild life could not be found in the whole region."

Within the new refuge it is unlawful to hunt, trap, capture, wilfully disturb, or kill any wild animal or bird of any kind whatever, or to take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird.